GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1827
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2013
DISPARITY IN WAGES
Suresh Shri D.K.

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that casual labourers are paid higher wages in comparison with MGNREGA`s labour;

(b) if so, the comparative details of wages paid to casual and MGNREGAs labourer, State-wise, year-wise during the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether due to disparity in wages, works under the MGNREGA Scheme is not getting completed on the scheduled time;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to bring parity among the wages of casual and MGNREGA workers in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH)

(a) to (f): Casual workers are engaged by various Ministries/Departments and their attached and subordinate offices for work of casual or seasonal or intermittent nature. Their wages are regulated under Minimum Wages Act, 1948. The wage rate under MGNREGA is delinked from the minimum wage rate fixed by the State Governments under the Minimum Wages Act. Further, wages under the MGNREGA are indexed with the Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labour (CPI-AL). Wage rates for casual workers and MNREGA workers vary across states, with some states having wage rates for casual workers more than that for MNREGA workers.